

DECLARING EMPORIA, KANSAS, TO BE THE FOUNDING CITY OF THE VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY AND RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALVIN J. KING AND REPRESENTATIVE ED REES TO THE ENACTMENT INTO LAW OF THE OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS DAY

JULY 10, 2003.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 159]

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, to whom was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 159) declaring Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday and recognizing the contributions of Alvin J. King and Representative Ed Rees to the enactment into law of the observance of Veterans Day, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the concurrent resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

The purpose of House Concurrent Resolution 159 is to declare Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday and bestow formal recognition on the contributions made by Alvin J. King (1902–1960) and Honorable Edward H. Rees (1886–1969) to the enactment into law of the observance of Veterans Day.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE RESOLUTION

This resolution would encourage Americans to demonstrate their support for veterans on Veterans Day by proclaiming that day as a special day of national remembrance. In addition, the resolution would declare Alvin J. King of Emporia to be the founder of Veterans Day, and the city of Emporia to be the founding city of Veterans Day. This Resolution would also acknowledge the contribution of Honorable Edward H. Rees of Emporia, Kansas, (who served the Fourth District of Kansas for 24 years in the U.S. House of Representatives) in establishing Veterans Day as a national holiday.

Alvin J. King's abiding respect for veterans is attributed to the loss of his nephew, John Cooper, who was killed in action in Belgium during World War II. John Cooper was a member of Rifle Company B, 137th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army. Mr. King remained devoted to the war effort at home by serving as the Veterans Security Chairman for the American War Dads.

In 1953, Mr. King proposed that Armistice Day be changed to Veterans Day to recognize and honor veterans from all wars and conflicts since, at that time, Armistice Day existed to honor only veterans of World War I. The community of Emporia, Kansas, under the direction of Alvin J. King celebrated its first All Veterans Day on November 11, 1953.

After that first celebration, Honorable Edward H. Rees introduced H.R. 7786, a bill to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day and to establish its celebration on November 11 of each year. The House and Senate passed H.R. 7786, and with President Dwight D. Eisenhower's signature, the bill became Public Law 380 on June 1, 1954.

Before the nation's first celebration of Veterans Day on November 11, 1954, President Eisenhower issued the following proclamation on October 8, 1954: "On that day let us solemnly remember the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly, on the seas, in the air, and on foreign shores, to preserve our heritage of freedom, and let us reconsecrate ourselves to the task of promoting an enduring peace so that their efforts shall not have been in vain." Thus with the enactment of H.R. 7786, Mr. King's dream to honor veterans of all conflicts was fulfilled.

The Committee believes this resolution would serve to appropriately recognize the origin of Veterans Day.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On May 1, 2003, Honorable Jerry Moran of Kansas introduced H. Con. Res. 159, declaring Emporia, Kansas, to be the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday. The bill was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

On June 26, 2003, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a markup on the concurrent resolution. The Committee ordered H. Con. Res. 159 reported favorably to the House by unanimous voice vote.

STATEMENT OF CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Article I, section 8 and Article IV, section 3 of the United States Constitution grant Congress the authority to enact this bill.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. Cost of Legislation. Clause 3(d)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires an estimate and a comparison by the Committee of the costs which would be incurred in carrying out this bill. H. Con. Res. 159 would merely acknowledge Emporia, Kansas, as the founding city of the Veterans Day holiday and no cost would be involved.

2. Congressional Budget Act. As required by clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, this bill does not

contain any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

3. General Performance Goals and Objectives. This bill does not authorize funding and therefore, clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives does not apply.

4. Congressional Budget Office Cost Estimate. The Committee has determined that H. Con Res. 159 entails no cost to the federal government and therefore, no cost estimate was requested from the Congressional Budget Office.

COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 104-4

This bill contains no unfunded mandates.

PREEMPTION OF STATE, LOCAL OR TRIBAL LAW

This bill is not intended to preempt any State, local or tribal law.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

If enacted, this bill would make no changes in existing law.

